Lovely Strange Dark
NINGYO OUJI
"MERMAID PRINCE"
BY OZAKI KAORI
CHAPTER 5
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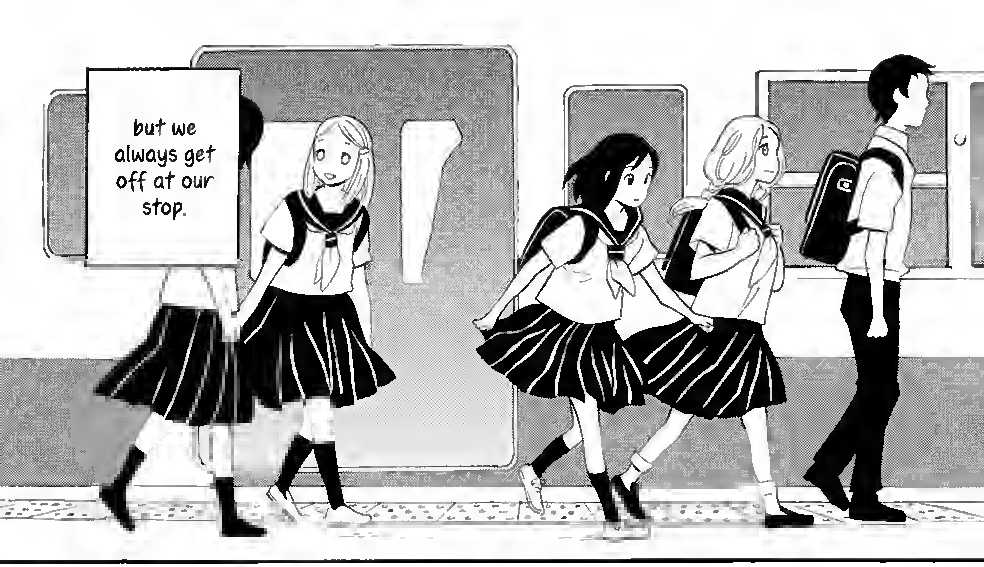
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

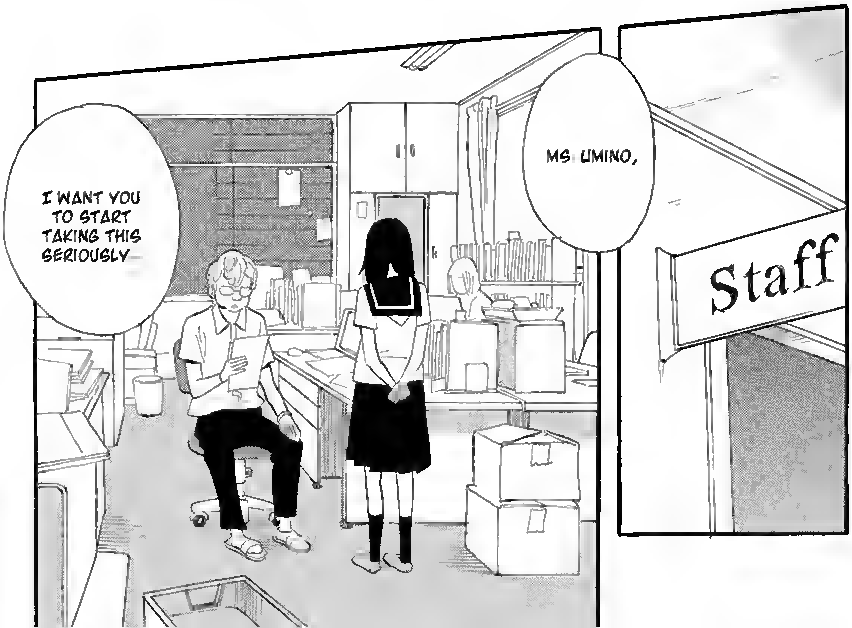
Ametsukigahara

— Part One —

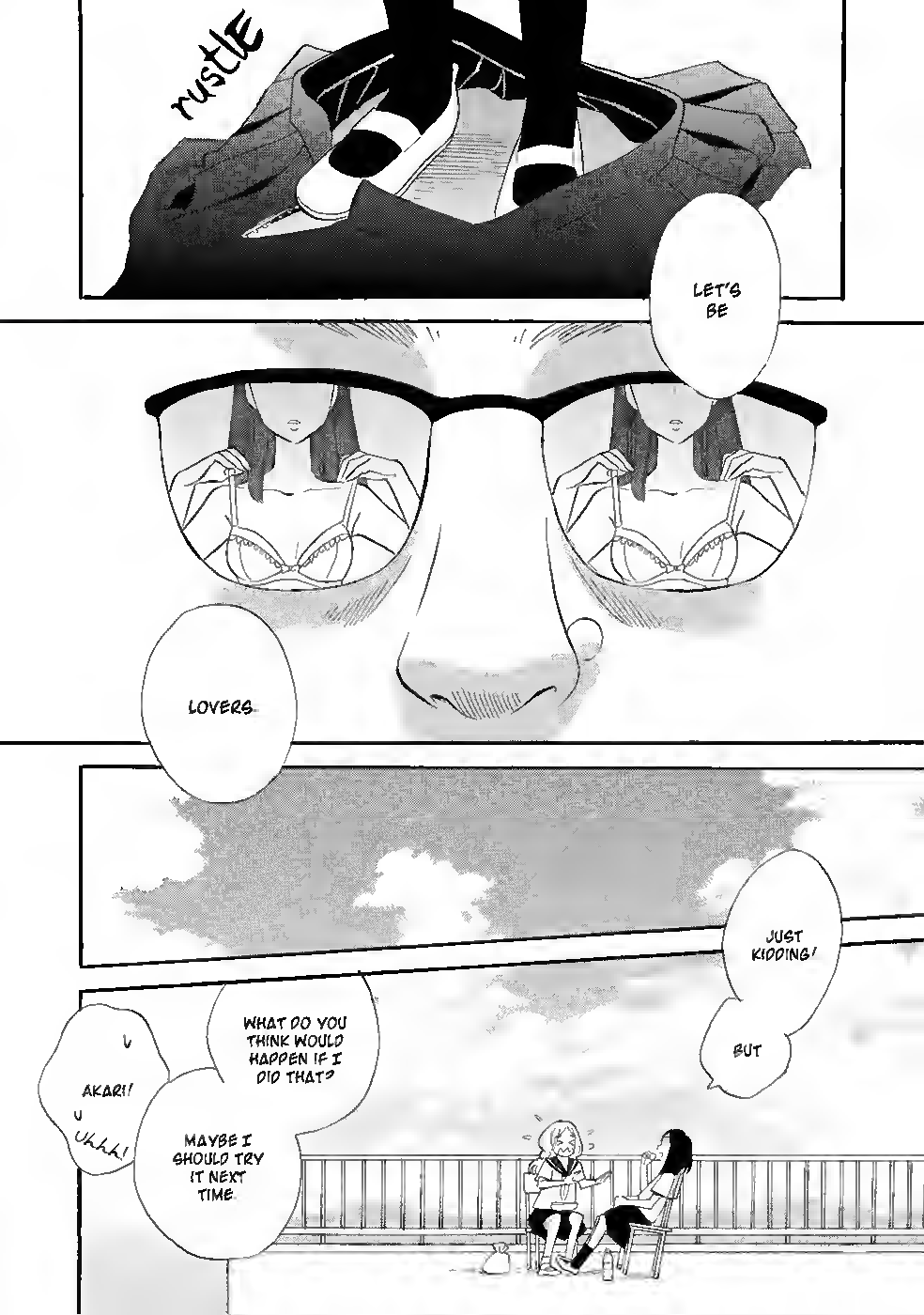
THIS IS AN EXPRESS TRAIN
TO AMETSUKI-GAHARA
I WONDER WHAT AME-TSUKIGAHARA IS LIKE?
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THERE, FUMIKO?
NOPE
I'VE NEVER TAKEN THE TRAIN PAST OUR SCHOOL
MUM TOLD ME
THEY HAVE FIREFLIES THERE

SWITCH PLACES WITH ME, AKARI
I'VE BEEN GROPED ON THE TRAIN BEFORE, SO I'M SCARED OF BEING NEXT TO GUYS
WELL THEN, I'LL PROTECT YOU LIKE THIS!
I'm not a groper
I'LL EVEN BEAT UP THE GROPER!
I CAN DO A REVERSE ROUNDHOUSE KICK
Hahaha! What's that?
SHOULD WE KEEP GOING PAST OUR SCHOOL AND WATCH THE FIREFLIES?
SOUNDS NICE
We say that,


but we always get off at our stop.


I WANT YOU TO START TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY—
MS. UMINO,
Staff

IS IT THAT YOU CAN'T DECIDE WHICH SCHOOL YOU WANT TO GO TO?
Target Schools
First Choice
A Pirate King
Second Choice
Queen of Kabukic
Third Choice
Hacker
JUST LOOK AT THIS
T/N: Kabukichou is Japan's red light district.
SERIOUS, YOU SAY
YOU KNOW...
—BUT, SIR...
I AM BEING SERIOUS.
...THEN...
Slip-


rustle
LET'S BE
LOVERS
JUST KIDDING!
BUT
WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN IF I DID THAT?
MAYBE I SHOULD TRY IT NEXT TIME.
U
AKARI!
U
UHHH!

NO WAY.
AND I DON'T WANT TO STUDY.
I'M NOT SMART LIKE YOU, FUMIKA.
AKARI,
COME WITH ME TO FUKA HIGH
HEHEHE!
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AKARI!?

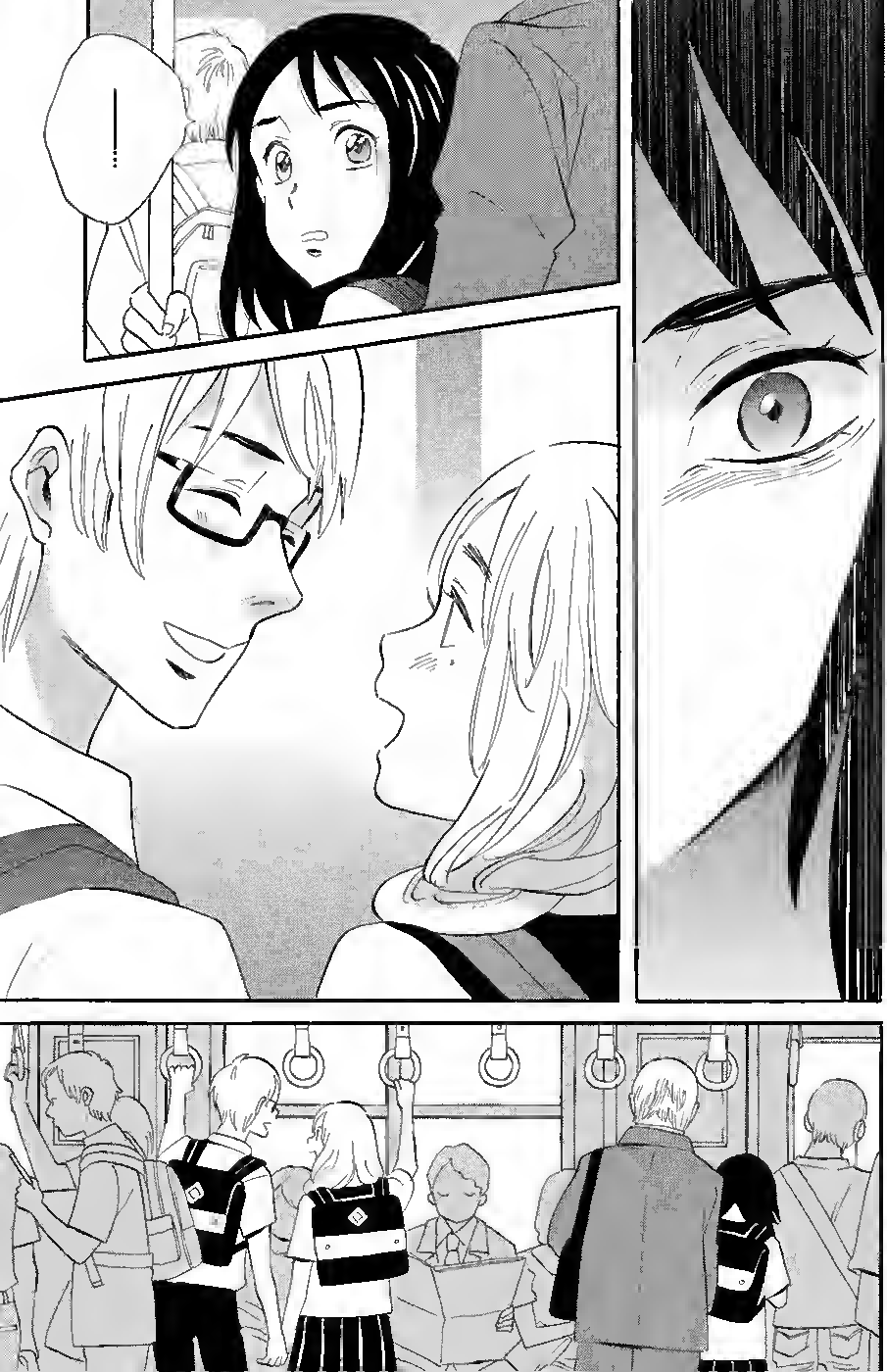
—YOU KNOW,
MY SILHOUETTE REALLY STANDS OUT
WHEN I'M HERE LIKE THIS,
AND I FEEL LIKE I'M ALIVE
—STOP IT!

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS SAY WEIRD STUFF!?
IDIOT!!
HA HAHA!
YOU CRY SO EASILY, FUMIKA.
...AKARI.
KAJI AND I STARTED DATING.
I HAVE SOME-THING TO TELL YOU.

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT,
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A PHONE, SO...
...KAJI...
WHAT?
H-HE ASKED ME OUT,
AND I SAID YES
Graduation Essays
THE GUY FROM THE CLASS NEXT DOOR...
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, HE WAS ALSO NEXT DOOR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL...

..ktunk
Primary School
Graduation Essays
My Future Dream
Year 6
Kaji Minato
My dream is to become a writer and win the Naoki prize.
..ktunk

I THOUGHT YOU WERE SCARED OF THEM.



WOW!!!
WHAT!?
HE ALREADY GAVE YOU A RING!?
I... I'LL TAKE IT OFF WHEN OUR TEACHER GETS HERE..
WOBBLE
HEY, AKARI!
DID YOU HEAR?

THEY FOUND OUT AFTER THEY STARTED DATING.
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE MADE FOR EACH OTHER, RIGHT?
he he
FUMIKA AND KAJI HAVE THE SAME BIRTHDAY
I DON'T WANT SOMEONE MADE FOR ME
AND I DON'T DO JEWELRY, EITHER.
COOL.
BUT

WHY DO I HAVE TO BE WITH SOMEONE WHEN I'M PERFECTLY HAPPY BY MYSELF?
SOMEONE GAVE ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
IT MAKES ME SICK TO IMAGINE WEARING A RING

WHAT THE HELL?
YOU KNOW... I'VE BEEN THINKING...
AKARI IS A LITTLE...
A LITTLE... YOU KNOW...

click
click...
RIP

RIP
SCRAPE
SCRAPE...
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM

haa
haa
KICK
SWOOOSH
ding-dong
... ding-dong

HMPH!
THE WIND
IS BLOWING THROUGH ME.

АНА
НА
НА!
НЕ
НЕ...
АНА
НА
НА
НА
НА!
НА!
НА!

I CAN GO ANYWHERE I WANT
THAT'S RIGHT
I DON'T NEED FUMIKA WITH ME
Though I'm riding away from Ametsuki-gahara
kthk
kthk
Rat
tle
THE WIND CHANGED

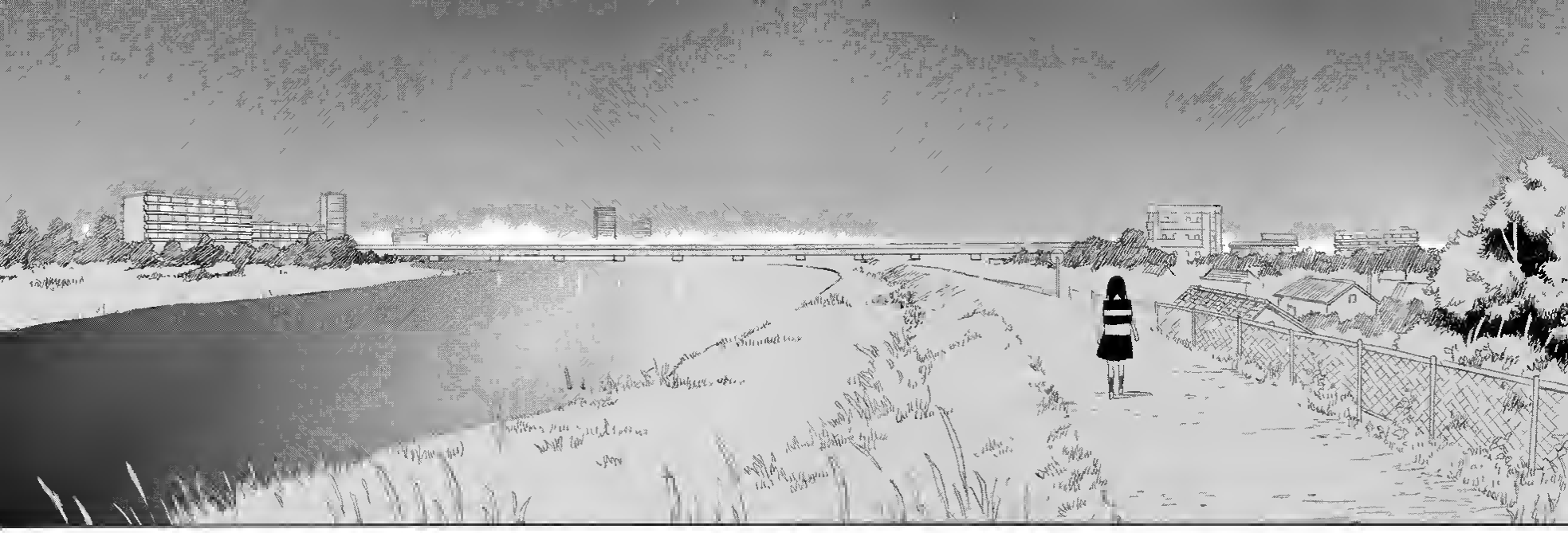
カラオケの客人

Kabukichou Best City
つくね
盆飯
5F

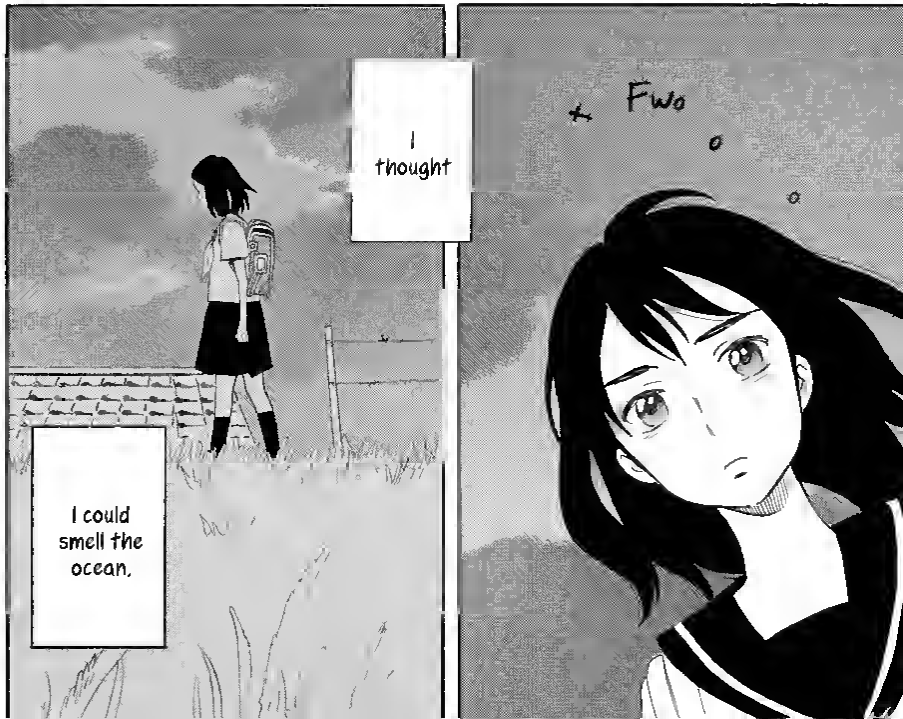
Vertical Sign: Free Tour*

haa
haa
WHRR

squeak
AH!
NITTLE
YOU'RE IN THE WAY
...
EXCUSE ME——



But
no matter how far I walked, I couldn't reach it.


I thought
I could smell the ocean.
Fwo

I'M HUNGRY
rustle
munch
munch

ching
I'LL GO HOME...
.....
PLOP
GO ANY-WHERE...
I COULDN'T

野村 ベーカリー
rattle rattle
TWEET
TWEET
I couldn't go anywhere.
but it was my first time seeing the bread shop in front of the station
open its shutters.

Hey,
I'm not wearing any panties right now